

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

RECKLESS RALPH'S

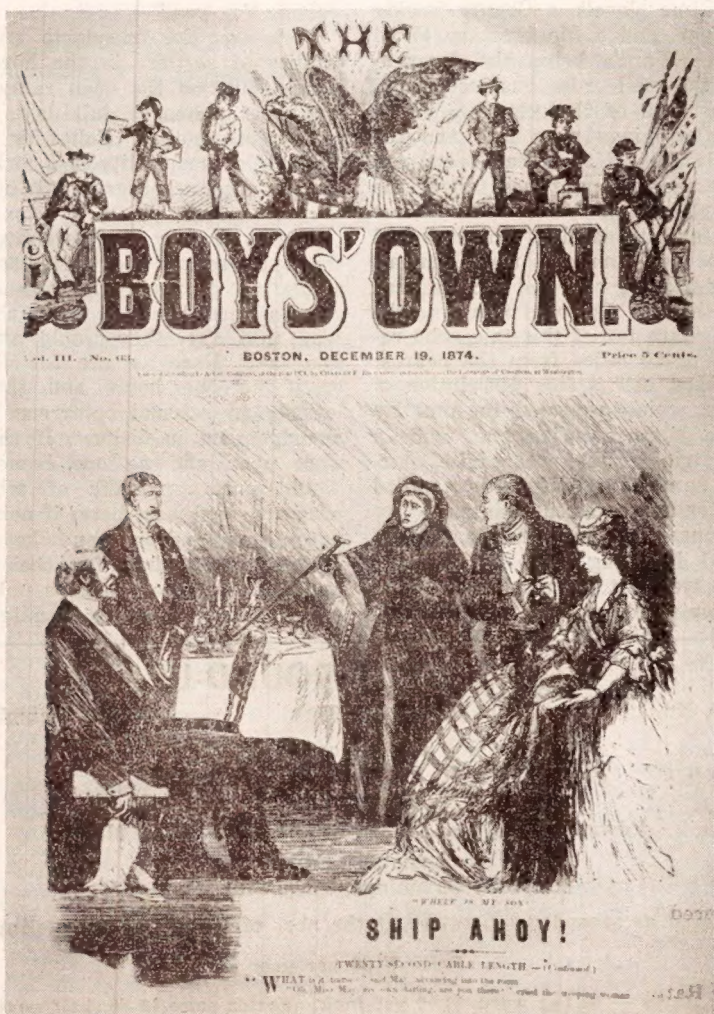
DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 20, No. 12

December 1952

Whole Number 243



HOSPITALITY ON THE RANGE

By J. H. Ambruster

Before the advent of the automobile, paved roads and other modern improvements, the homesteader, rancher, or cowboy or two operating on their own with a few head of cattle, often located miles from even a small village, had a very solitary time.

Present day numerous magazines had not yet appeared, and the only reading matter to be found in the average settler's cabin was a few copies of Dime Novels, a County weekly newspaper, and a Montgomery Ward catalog, (Ward's being the forerunner in the mail order business, probably the first of that class).

When evenings were dull and the available Dime Novels had been read and reread many times, then the lonely plainsman would again resort to his favorite catalog. This too had been perused numerous times and always something new and exciting was found therein. On one occasion, the central character of this tale, who resided 8 or 10 miles from the nearest post office, saw a fine description of a bridle which appealed to him. He wrote a letter ordering one, made a special trip to the post office, purchased necessary money order, mailed the letter and awaited results.

Of course, where there was outgoing and incoming mail service only once a week, it required some time for a reply from a distance, like Chi-

cago; also some time for a convenient return trip to the P. O. Several weeks later he happened to meet a "neighbor", who also lived miles and miles away. Said the neighbor: "That is a fine bridle you got from Montgomery Ward." "I didn't get any bridle," said the rancher; "I mailed an order and thought they were kind of slow in sending it." "Oh, it's at the post office," said the neighbor; "I was there the other day and the Postmaster let me open the package and look at it, and it sure is O. K. We tied it up again and it's there waiting for you."

Such was the friendship and hospitality of settlers in the horse and buggy days on the open range, with neighbors almost a full day's travel one from another. Following is an example of hospitality and confidence in each other whether known by name or not:

If a cowboy or two were travelling the open range and mealtime came along, as it usually does, and they spied a ranch house or cabin, the first seen that day, they would approach and say, "Here we are for dinner"; or if no one home and the door locked (an unusual occurrence), they would depart in disgust. If the door were open and no one home, they would enter, partake of whatever prepared food was there; if none, prepare a meal and perhaps bake a batch of biscuits, enough for their needs and some for the (perhaps unknown) owner. Upon departing a note would

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be left thanking the owner for his hospitality, hoping he would enjoy the biscuits, and "come and see us at BAR XLZ some time."

Not so with a locked door; that was something to be remembered and a place to be avoided.

Incidentally, they would look over the stock of Dime Novels, if any, and see whether the owner had some which they had not; if so, they felt at liberty to take them along, leaving word that they had done so and that they would be returned some day.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

How quick time flies, here it is December and Christmas time is upon us before we know it, well as a fellow says, it's another milestone that's passed on.

Harry St. Clair, formerly of Baton Rouge, La., went out to Boston, Mass. to see a specialist for treatments. He says they want to cut on him, but he wants only treatments. Let's hope he gets it, as he is paying for it, so why shouldn't he. Anyway, I was able to see him up in Worcester for two hours or so, before he had to leave. Hope he finds some one who can do it for him, and here's wishing you luck on it.

George French says he feels fine, after his second operation.

Prof. Johannsen says if the Roundup has an index every year, to end each volume on December, and start a new one in January, also to continue numbers in every issue, 1-2-3 or 25-26-27 and so on, it's easier for an index. (Editor's note: Index will be issued with January number.)

Herschel C. Logan, 400 S. 9th St., Salina, Kansas, is writing up the history on the Life of Texas Jack, so any one having any information, write to Mr. Logan.

Bob Frye, 895 Morgan Ave., Schenectady 9, N. Y. has a lot of novels to sell, also trade, so write him quick.

J. P. Guinon says: Yes, I like circuses, or at least I did back in the

old days when I was a kid and the circus meant a big parade with the streets lined for a couple of miles with people in from the country especially to see the circus. They used to sit on the curbs for hours waiting for the parade, which was always scheduled to start right on the dot at ten o'clock a.m. and never was known to show up before noon. But there are no more circus parades, at least not down here in this country.

R. L. Bickford, P. O. Box 405, Newport, Vt., is still after N. Y. Detective Library No. 44, No Man's Money, by A. F. Hill.

J. P. Guinon says he once swapped a set of Frank Reade Weekly Magazine, all like new, for a single shot 22 calibre Rifle. The rifle was all leaded up and would never shoot good and the first thing the other fellow did with the Frank Reades was to tear all the covers off and use them to paper his room. Those were the old days for you.

H. B. McConnell says he is a McGuffeyite, as he finds lots of people everywhere who speak with a sort of affection for Youths Companion and McGuffey. Some day Harry intends to send in a little contribution of an article on Youth's Companion, and he may add a few notes on McGuffey's Readers. McGuffey was credited with "Mary had a little lamb," "Twinkle, Twinkle, little star," "The Boy who stood on the burning deck," and many others. As we never had anything written on the Youth's Companion, I'm sure it would be something unusual and of interest, as there are lots of members who have read Y. C. and still do.

Whatever became of Daredevil Dave Adams of Los Angeles, Calif., hope he is in the land of the living and feeling 100% better than he has in a long time. Let's hear from you Pard.

Buffalo Bill's Boyhood started in Golden Hours No. 689 April 13th, 1901, and ended in the same year, with 696, June 1st. Also the "Golden Hours Authors Camping Out Club in the Adirondacks" by John T. Mor-

gan started with No. 651, July 21st, 1900, and ended the same year with No. 660, Sept. 22nd.

G. Fred Orphal says even Lionel Barrymore mentioned over the radio a while back, that he reads the old dime novels that are in his library, and that he gets a great kick out of reading them. He is 74 years old now.

Chet L. Swital would like to get a copy of a dime novel titled "California Joe, the Phantom of the Prairie." What's wanted for it?

Well, Pard, here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all, and many many more.

From the pages of the Daily Record of Boston, Mass., Nov. 27, 1952:

ALGER, OPTIC HONOR ASKED

The books of two Massachusetts' born authors of a by-gone day, Hora-

tio Alger and Oliver Optic (William Taylor Adams) would be placed in the State House library as a memorial, according to a petition filed by Rep. John W. Costello of Boston on behalf of Judge Daniel Gillen of Boston yesterday.

"This memorial might help revive an interest among the boys of America in the stories of Alger and Optic," Judge Gillen declared. "They are inspirational and American youth today could gain a great deal more by reading them than they get from some of the current 'trash' literature that is peddled to our young people."

Want ADVENTURE MAGS. prior to 1938. Containing stories by Hugh Pendexter, \$3.00 for Novelettes, \$10 for Serials. Mags in poor condition O.K.

R. C. Bayless

1021 Archer St., San Diego 9, Calif.

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Instead of sending out Christmas cards this year, I'll wish you all A Merry Christmas and A Very Happy New Year through the pages of the Round-Up, and wish you all a very successful year, and many more to come.

Your Newsy News Editor, Ralph F. Cummings

FOR SALE

- VIRGIN LAND, by Henry Nash Smith, Harvard University Press. The American West as Symbol and Myth. This sure is a fine book. Two-thirds of it is on the old dime and nickel novels and is worthy of anyone's collection. Illustrated. Price ----- \$4.75
- THE GREAT RASCAL, by Jay Monaghan, 1951. The Biography of Ned Buntline, King of Dime Novelists and the promoter of Buffalo Bill, illustrated ----- Price \$4.50
- JESSE JAMES WAS MY NEIGHBOR, by Homer Croy, 1949, another fine book, illustrated ----- Price \$3.50
- BRITISH CIRCUS LIFE, by Lady Eleanor Smith and John Hinde, 1948. A very fine book on the circus over in England and many colored plates too, very interesting of the real circus ----- \$3.00
- MR. FRANK MERRIWELL, by Gilbert Patten (Burt L. Standish) 1941. The author of Frank and Dick Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly, Medal and Merriwell Series and others ----- \$3.00
- THE FEMININE FIFTIES, by Fred L. Pattee, 1940. This is a biography of the women writers, who wrote for the New York Ledger and other papers such as Ann Stephens, Jenny Lind, Augustus Wilson, Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., and others. Illustrated ----- \$2.00
- BOYS WILL BE BOYS, by E. S. Turner, 1948. The story of Sweeney Todd, Deadwood Dick, Sexton Blake, Billy Bunter, Dick Barton, etc. Illustrated ----- \$3.00
- STORY OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE, by Virgil A. Lewis, M. A. 1903. Illustrated ----- \$1.25
- THE TROJAN BROTHERS, by P. H. Johnson, 1945. This is a novel of love and jealousy set against a music hall background in London in the 20's ----- \$1.25
- JACK JOHNSON, in the Ring and Out, by Jack Johnson, 1927. Illustrated (former World's Heavy Weight Champion) ----- \$2.50
- HEY THERE, SUCKER, by Jack Dadswell, 1946. A fine book on the Circus, carnivals, shows, etc. Illustrated ----- \$2.50
- RHYMES FROM NEW ENGLAND, by George D. Rhodes, 1947. Rhymes such as Maple Sugar Time, Up in the Attic, An Abandoned Farm, Cape Cod, and many others. ----- .50

All for \$30.00

All are new books and will make very fine Christmas presents. Many of them are scarce, as I only have a few left, get your order in early.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.